

FY 2005 Bush Budget

Shortchanging Education and Children – Again!

Democratic Staff, House Education and Workforce Committee
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- **President Bush shortchanges education for the third year in a row with historically low Federal investment.** President Bush provides a meager 3 percent increase (\$1.7 billion) in education funding over last year, despite rising enrollments and a shortage of resources to meet our education needs. President Bush also eliminates dozens of key programs, reducing the Federal investment in education by \$1.4 billion.
- **President Bush denies critical services to millions of disadvantaged children.** President Bush shortchanges his own No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by \$9.4 billion-including \$7.2 billion for Title I. The President breaks his promise to provide \$20.5 billion for Title I under NCLB. His Budget will deny nearly 5 million disadvantaged children critical education services, such as extra help to become proficient in reading and math. Since NCLB was signed into law President Bush has underfunded the law by \$26.5 billion or 21.7 percent.
- **President Bush freezes or cuts college aid, forces taxes on students, and fails to stop tuition hikes.** Despite rising college tuition and the declining buying power of grants, President Bush has frozen or cut the maximum Pell Grant for the last 3 years. The President freezes the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,050, freezes Work-study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and forces increased taxes on students. Not only does the President fail to address the rising college tuition, but he also makes college even *more* expensive by freezing or cutting student aid and taxing students.
- **President Bush jeopardizes aid to children of military families.** The Bush budget freezes all Impact Aid funding at the FY 2004 level, jeopardizing programs and services for children of military families.
- **President Bush breaks his NCLB promise on afterschool programs.** The Bush budget freezes funding for afterschool programs. As a result, nearly 1.3 million children will be shut out of afterschool programs.
- **President Bush adds new money for private school vouchers while shortchanging students at public schools.** The Bush budget proposes \$50 million in private school vouchers. At a time when our *public* schools are trying to meet the challenges of NCLB, the Administration is diverting resources away from public school students and local efforts to improve public schools.
- **President Bush makes certain that full funding of special education will never happen.** The Bush budget proposes a \$1 billion increase for the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This marks the 4th year in a row President Bush has proposed this exact level of increase, placing disabled students at an even greater disadvantage. At this rate of increase, we will never reach full funding of IDEA.

- **President Bush cuts \$316 million from vocational education and community colleges- again.** The Bush Budget would cut \$316 million, or nearly 25 percent, from vocational education. On top of this, President Bush has cut more than \$1.5 billion in cuts out of job training and vocational education programs since he took office. In addition, the budget proposes to turn this program into a block grant to states, eliminating accountability and targeting of resources to disadvantaged students and programs.